

## CLAIMS

1. A method for preparing an organic compound, which comprises a dehydration step of distilling off water from a polar organic solvent solution containing the organic compound and water to bring the concentration of water below a given level,
- wherein the dehydration step comprises distilling off water together with the polar organic solvent while adding a polar organic solvent to the polar organic solvent solution, or comprises repeating several cycles of adding a polar organic solvent to the polar organic solvent solution and then distilling off water together with the polar organic solvent.
2. The method for preparing an organic compound according to claim 1, wherein the polar organic solvent solution contains a halogen compound which produces an acidic substance upon coming into contact with water or an alcohol solvent.
3. The method for preparing an organic compound according to claim 2, wherein the halogen compound is an iodine compound.
4. The method for preparing an organic compound according to claim 3, wherein the iodine compound is iodine or a metal iodide.
5. The method for preparing an organic compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the polar organic solvent solution is a solution in an ether solvent

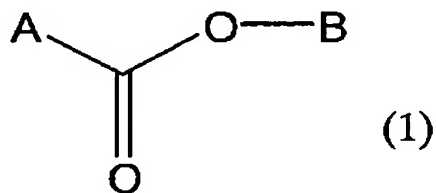
or a ketone solvent.

6. The method for preparing an organic compound, which comprises the dehydration step according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the dehydration step is followed by a crystallization step of distilling off the polar organic solvent from the resulting solution while supplementing the solution with a poor solvent for the organic compound so as to crystallize the organic compound.

7. The method for preparing an organic compound according to claim 6, wherein an alcohol solvent is used as the poor solvent.

8. The method for preparing an organic compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the organic compound is a  $\beta$ -lactam compound.

9. The method for preparing an organic compound according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the organic compound is a  $\beta$ -lactam compound of Formula (1):

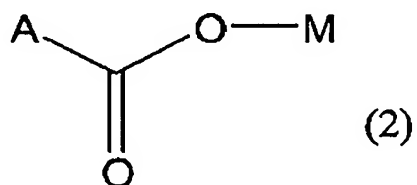


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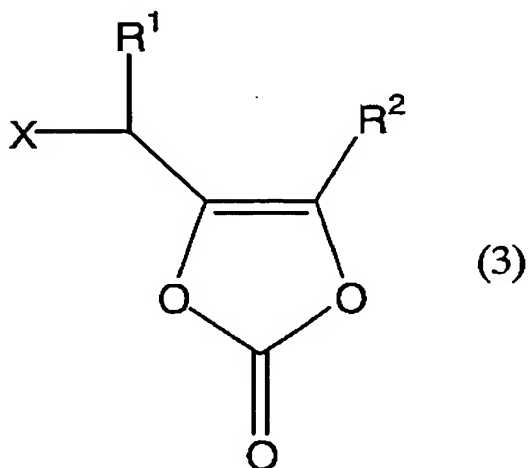
wherein A represents a condensed heterocyclic group having a  $\beta$ -lactam ring structure, and B represents an optionally substituted  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ alkyl group, an optionally substituted  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$ alkenyl group, an optionally substituted  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$ alkynyl group, an optionally substituted aryl group or

an optionally substituted heterocyclic group.

10. The method for preparing an organic compound according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the polar organic solvent solution is a reaction solution obtained by  
5 reacting a compound of Formula (2):



- wherein A represents a condensed heterocyclic group  
10 having a  $\beta$ -lactam ring structure, and M represents a hydrogen atom or a metal atom, in a polar organic solvent, with a 4-halogenomethyldioxolenone compound of Formula (3):



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- wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  each independently represent a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$ alkyl group or

an optionally substituted phenyl group, or  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  may together form an optionally substituted  $C_3$ - $C_8$  ring, and X represents a halogen atom, or a solution obtained by working up the reaction solution.

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